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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a fax call request from an originating fax device, the fax call request
defining a request for fax transmission to a called party device;
5 determining an eligibility of the called party device to receive the fax
transmission; and
if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax
transmission, blocking the fax call request thereby causing the called party device not
to receive the fax transmission.
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of blocking the fax call request is
accomplished prior to ringing of the called party device.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
15 if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax
transmission, sending an error message to the originating fax device.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
if the called party device is determined to be eligible to receive the fax
20 transmission, completing the fax call request, thereby enabling the called party device
to receive the fax transmission.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining an eligibility of the
called party device to receive the fax transmission comprises;
25 determining whether the called party device is a fax device, a positive
determination of eligibility being made if the called party is a fax device.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of determining whether the called
party device is a fax device comprises:
30 identifying a directory number of the called party device;
consulting a database of directory numbers to determine if the directory
number of the called party device corresponds to a fax device, a positive

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determination of eligibility being made if the directory number of the called party device corresponds to a fax device.

5 7. A method comprising the steps of:
receiving a call request from an originating device;
determining whether the call request is a fax call request, the fax call request
defining a request for fax transmission to a called party device;
determining whether the called party device is a fax device; and
if the call request is a fax call request and the called party device is not a fax
10 device, blocking the call request thereby causing the called party device not to receive
the fax transmission.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of blocking the fax call request is
accomplished prior to ringing of the called party device.

15 9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
if the called party device is determined not to be eligible to receive the fax
transmission, sending an error message to the originating fax device.

20 10. The method of claim 7, further comprising:
if the call request is a fax call request and the called party device is a fax
device, completing the fax call request thereby enabling the called party device to
receive the fax transmission.

25 11. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of determining whether the call
request is a fax request comprises:
identifying a directory number of the originating device;
consulting a database of directory numbers to determine if the directory
number of the originating device corresponds to a fax device, the call request being
30 determined to be a fax request if the directory number of the originating device
corresponds to a fax device.